



**SPECIAL POINTS OF
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Avian/Pandemic Flu Newsletter

THE OFFICIAL AVIAN INFLUENZA NEWSLETTER OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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AVIAN INFLUENZA: Current Global Situation Update

Avian Influenza Cases in Humans

Since January 2004, the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported human cases of Avian Influenza A/ (H5N1) in more than twelve countries like Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Egypt, Djibouti, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Nigeria.

Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza (H5N1)

Cases reported to WHO through August 30, 2008. WHO only reports laboratory-confirmed cases.

- ◆ Total human cases of H5N1 (confirmed) = **385**
- ◆ Total human deaths from H5N1= **243**

http://www.who.int/disease/avian_influenza/cases_2008_06_19.html

Currently, there are no reported human OR animal cases of the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1)

Vietnam May Produce Bird Flu Vaccines For Humans

Bernama.com - August 22, 2008

HANOI, VIET NAM - Vietnam plans to make vaccines against bird flu virus strain H5N1 for humans in late 2009 after successful trials, its news agency VNA quoted a local newspaper as saying on Friday.

A dose of the vaccine, developed by a local company named Vabiotech under Vietnam's National Hygiene and Epidemiology Institute, will have a selling price of some 30,000 Vietnamese dong (US\$1.80).

The vaccine, called Fluvax, has been tested on local volunteers, and then proved effective. The health of the volunteers is good.



Vietnam has confirmed a total of 106 human cases of bird flu infections, including 52 fatalities, in 36 cities and provinces since bird flu started to hit the country in December 2003.

Since late 2003, the disease has killed and led to the forced culling of dozens of millions of poultry in Vietnam.

Pitsanulok Prepares for Bird Flu Threat

Thaindian News - August 11, 2008

THAILAND - The provincial Governor, Somboon Sripattanawat, opened a proactive meeting to rehearse measures safeguarding against Avian Influenza at the Ratchapruk Hotel in Pitsanulok province.

The event took place as the province is now moving into the monsoon season and also as a review of past activity. Officers of the provinces Livestock Authority reviewed work of relevant employees from all 9 districts of the province including animal detention authorities.

Avian Influenza Cases in Birds

[Bird Flu Marches Through India and Indonesia](#)

Natural News - August 27, 2008

GENERAL - A serious outbreak of bird flu has devastated poultry stocks and prices in India and killed 100 people in Indonesia.



[World Bank Asks Yemen for Plan to Get Over \\$1mln to Fight Bird Flu](#)

News Yemen - August 27, 2008

YEMEN - The World Bank on Tuesday declared it would grant Yemen 1,000,080 USD to fight bird flu and take precautions measures against the disease.

[University of Texas researchers discover new target in flu fight](#)

Statesman.com - August 26, 2008

TEXAS - University of Texas scientists have discovered a new target in the fight against bird flu and other severe influenza strains that have caused global epidemics, or pandemics, according to a paper published online Monday.

[Bird Flu strain in India, Bangladesh Similar](#)

The Times Of India - August 26, 2008

NEW DELHI, INDIA - The bird flu virus, that caused India's worst Avian Influenza (AI) outbreak this year, has been found to be "a lot similar" to the one that created havoc in Bangladesh.

[Bird Flu Detected in Rhode Island](#)

Eye Witness News TV - August 22, 2008

US - A strain of bird flu has been detected in four swans found in the Seekonk River.

The cases were discovered as part of routine surveillance by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

DEM says the strain of avian flu detected in Rhode Island is not the same strain that has infected people in Asia and Europe since 2003 -- so it does not pose a significant health risk to humans.



However, the agency says the virus can be transmitted to wild birds and domestic poultry flocks. It is urging all poultry owners to employ standard bio-security and sanitation practices. In particular, they should prevent flocks from having any contact with wild birds.

All poultry owners should have their flocks tested. To schedule an appointment call the DEM's Division of Agriculture/Animal Health Unit at 401-222-2781. There is no charge for the testing.

[Avian Flu Strain Transferable in Mammals](#)

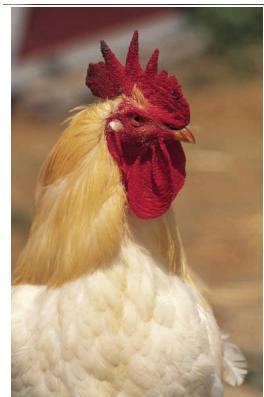
Diamond Back Online - August 21, 2008

GLOBE - University-led research revealed a strain of the avian flu virus once considered less severe could develop the ability to be transmitted from one mammal to another, leading to a human pandemic, according to results published by the Public Library of Science.

[H9N2 Avian Flu Virus Has Pandemic Potential in Humans](#)

ThePoultrySite News Desk - August 13, 2008

GLOBAL - Hongquan Wan of the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Maryland has published a paper with a number of co-authors on the pandemic potential of the H9N2 flu virus in humans. Their work in ferrets led them to suggest that this strain from poultry poses a significant risk to humans as it showed enhanced replication and efficient transmission by direct contact.



[Pennsylvania Game Commission urges avian influenza awareness](#)

Wild About PA - August 6, 2008

US - With the first of the waterfowl and migratory game bird hunting seasons, as well as the start of the fall migration, just around the corner, the Pennsylvania Game Commission is calling public attention to the issues of avian influenza and wild birds.



NATIONAL NEWS

During 90th Anniversary Year, Pandemic Influenza Storybook Stirs Memories and Learning

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - August 22, 2008

CDC discovered a wealth of inspiration in the family stories told by pandemic influenza training participants during the last two years. Stories that showed the spirit of survival along with the tragedy of unexpected death has spurred public health professionals to keep preparing for the next influenza pandemic. These stories and more were captured in the Internet-based CDC Pandemic Influenza Storybook just released.

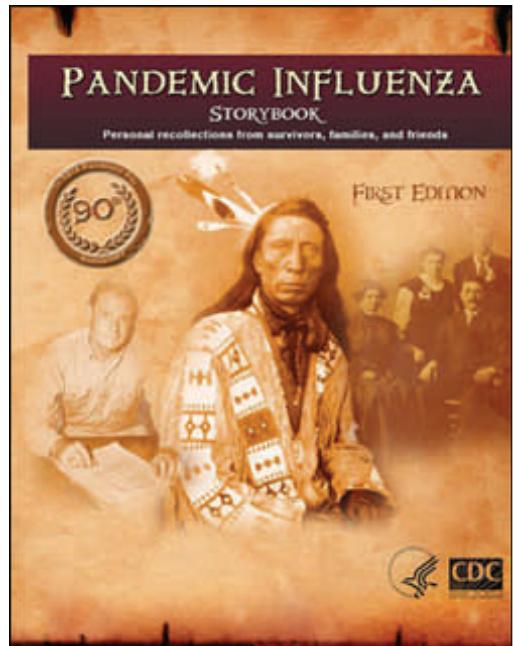
In 2002, CDC launched its highly successful Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) training program. Since that time, two additional modules have been added to the basic CERC course: For Leaders by Leaders and Pandemic Influenza. As part of the CERC Pan Flu course, which began in 2006, attendees were asked to share their pandemic flu stories from 1918, 1957, and 1968. The sharing of these stories enhances these training sessions by "translating" the staggering morbidity and mortality rates from these pandemics into individual events that impacted families for decades.

CERC certified trainers and others charged CDC with compiling some of these stories into an accessible training tool that they could tap into as needed. The latter is the primary reason for the creation of the "Pandemic Influenza Storybook". However, since 2008 marks the 90th anniversary of the 1918 Pandemic Flu event, the online book also serves a fitting commemorative piece. That pandemic killed more than 50 million people worldwide including an estimated 675,000 people in the United States and it is one of the touchstones for today's public health preparedness initiatives. These first-person and family accounts also help planners re-energize their efforts and fight pandemic flu preparedness fatigue and apathy. Today CDC estimates that in the most severe pandemic a potential 2 million Americans could die.

The Pandemic Influenza Storybook contains 50 stories from 26 states and the book is divided into three sections for the 1918 event and there is a separate section for 1957 stories. CDC is actively seeking 1968 stories.

The Pandemic Influenza Storybook is not a closed book. CDC will continue to accept stories and add them to the book at quarterly intervals.

"It's an excellent resource, not only for public health professionals, but for people of all ages," said Sharon KD Hoskins, a public affairs officer who coordinated the project for CDC. "It's probably the closest to experiencing the real thing that many of us can imagine." ([CTRL+ click the picture to read storybook](#))



LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS



Local News

August 19, 2008 - San Diego SeaWorld - *Pandemic Flu / Avian Flu and Seasonal Flu Comparisons*, presented by Jack Walsh, Pandemic Influenza Coordinator, offered information in how we are infected and how to protect ourselves. at the San Diego SeaWorld.

Local Outreach

Activities related to Pandemic Influenza education in San Diego continue with more than 142,850 educational material distributed to various community locations. In addition, more than 145 presentations have been provided to staff and community residents.

State/ Federal News No new updates at this time.

PANDEMIC/ AVIAN FLU IN THE MEDIA

Researchers find trends in study of Indonesia's H5N1 cases

CIDRAP News - August 18, 2008

Public health officials from Indonesia recently published an analysis of nearly all of the country's H5N1 avian influenza cases, revealing that death was more likely in those who received antiviral treatment late, were not part of a cluster, and lived in an urban area.

The study, published online August 15 in *The Lancet*, was authored by officials from Indonesia's Directorate General of Disease Control and Environmental Health, the country's health ministry, as well as authorities from laboratories and health organizations. It includes data from public health investigations and, when available, patients' clinical information.

The evaluation covered all confirmed human cases between June 22, 2005, when Indonesia recorded its first H5N1 infection, to February 1, 2008. Included were 127 patients, 103 (81%) of whom died.

The case-fatality rate (CFR) rose from 65% in 2005 to 86.8% in 2007. However, Indonesian officials say the rate has declined so far in 2008. According to a report that appeared August 15 on the Web site of the health ministry's avian influenza committee, the CFR from January through July was 84.2%, based on the 19 cases and 16 deaths recognized by the nation (as of this writing, the World Health Organization has recognized 18 cases with 15 deaths).

Only 2 of Indonesia's 127 infected patients were not hospitalized. One had a mild infection and received outpatient care, and one refused treatment and died at home.

A review of 108 clinical histories showed that symptoms during the first 2 days after onset were nonspecific in most cases. Thirty-two (30%) patients had fever and cough, and nine (8%) had fever and dyspnea.

Of the 125 patients who were hospitalized, 104 were diagnosed with pneumonia immediately or shortly after admission.

Eighty-eight (69%) of the case-patients were treated with oseltamivir, and the median time between symptom onset and treatment was 7 days (range 0 to 21). Patients who received the drug early were more likely to survive; those starting treatment more than 5 days after onset were more likely to die.

The authors report there were 11 case clusters that involved 28 patients. Infected patients who were not part of clusters were more likely to die, but researchers did not find any differences between cluster patients and non-cluster patients in terms of when they presented to a healthcare facility, whether they received oseltamivir, or how soon they received the drug.

Patients with secondary cases were more likely to survive than primary case-patients, and they received antiviral treatment about 3 days earlier than primary case-patients. The investigators acknowledge that secondary cases may have involved other early interventions as well. They also report that patients who had indirect exposure to the virus were more likely to die.

Death and survival patterns among patients in clusters deserve further study, the authors' state. Though close-knit families may be exposed to a common viral source, the role of genetic susceptibility and H5N1 virulence may also play important roles, they note. "Further studies should therefore be done on clusters to elucidate the definitive causes of reduced case fatality."

Most patients were hospitalized too late and received oseltamivir too late, the group says.

"Training and equipping of all H5N1 referral hospitals across Indonesia, together with increasing the number of referral hospitals, is in progress to address this issue."

The authors emphasize that early identification is often difficult, but more information from agricultural officials about local poultry outbreaks could help health-care workers increase their index of suspicion for H5N1 infections.

The time to bolster national surveillance for human H5N1 cases is now, and disagreement over virus sample sharing should not hamper the flow of epidemiologic data, they add. "The world also needs to find a more equitable way to ensure that all share in the benefits of such important research. Indonesia could give the lead here."

For more information go to: <http://www.cidrap.aug1808.html>

Indonesia rules out H5N1 case cluster in Sumatra

CIDRAP News - August 13, 2008

In an online statement posted yesterday, the Indonesian government said 12 villagers from North Sumatra who were hospitalized for suspected avian influenza symptoms had tested negative for the disease, dampening speculation about a possible case cluster.



PANDEMIC/ AVIAN FLU IN THE MEDIA

The statement from the health ministry's avian flu committee, known as KOMNAS FBPI, was dated August 9th, but appeared on the group's Web site yesterday. It said 12 villagers from Air Batu village tested negative for the H5N1 virus. All were being treated at Kisaran Hospital, except for a 7-year-old girl and an 8-year-old boy who were at Adam Malik Hospital in Medan, the provincial capital, where they were reported to be in stable condition.

The ministry's statement did not mention three deaths from suspicious symptoms that have been mentioned along with accounts of up to 13 sick patients in recent media reports. However, Chandra Syafei, an official from North Sumatra's health office, acknowledged that three people had died and said his office was on "extraordinary occurrence" alert status, according to a Jakarta Post report.

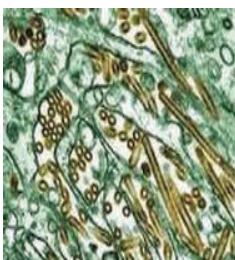
"The three people died following the discovery of dead poultry, but we don't know whether or not it [avian influenza] was the cause," Chandra told the Post. He said his office had not received autopsy reports from the health ministry.

The suspected cases were identified by provincial and local health officials between August 5th and 7th, and the patients were given oseltamivir when they were hospitalized, the health ministry's statement said. Also, it said the ministry was conducting surveillance in the area for more patients with suspicious symptoms.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/avianflu/news/aug1308indonesia.html>

Nigeria Battles New Bird Flu Strain

Voice of America.com - August 13, 2008



H5N1 strain of bird flu

Animal health specialists warn a new strain of highly pathogenic bird flu in Nigeria - which has previously not been recorded in sub-Saharan Africa - increases the risk of avian influenza spreading to other countries in West Africa. For VOA, Gilbert da Costa in Abuja filed this report on Nigeria's campaign to deal with the threat.

Nigeria's bird flu officials blame infected migratory birds from Europe or Central Asia for the spread of the new strain of H5N1 to the country.

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization says the newly discovered virus strain is genetically different from the strain that circulated in Nigeria in 2006 and 2007.

The U.N. food agency says the new strain is similar to ones previously identified in Italy, Afghanistan and Iran, last year. <http://www.voanews.com/english/2008-08-13-voa32.cfm>
You can also find more information at:

<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2008/1000909/index.html>

13 Indonesians Test Negative for Bird Flu

Voice of America.com - August 9, 2008

Indonesian health officials say 13 people suspected of having bird flu have tested negative for the deadly disease.

Officials in Asahan district in North Sumatra province said villagers began showing symptoms of avian flu after a large number of chickens died suddenly last week in Air Batu village.

Tests run on the chickens showed they died from the lethal H5N1 strain of avian flu.

More than 240 people around the world have died since an outbreak of the H5N1 strain was first detected in poultry stocks across Asia in 2003. Indonesia has recorded 111 deaths from the virus, the highest of any nation.

Humans can contract avian flu only from direct contact from infected poultry.

Experts fear the virus will mutate into a form easily passed between humans, which could lead to a pandemic that could kill millions of people.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2008-08-09-voa19.cfm>

Indonesia reports new H5N1 death

CIDRAP News - August 4, 2008

An official from Indonesia's health ministry recently confirmed that a 19-year-old man died from an H5N1 avian influenza infection.

Nyoman Kandun, director general of communicable diseases at the health ministry, said the man died last week in a hospital west of Jakarta, according to an Aug 2 report from the Associated Press (AP).

Healthcare workers and family members alerted the media about Indonesia's last H5N1 case, that of a 38-year-old man who reportedly died on Jul 10. However, a health ministry spokeswoman declined to confirm the case and said officials would release the information in an H5N1 case update at the end of July. No updates appear to have been posted on the government's health ministry or avian influenza Web sites.

Also, it's not clear if Indonesia has notified the WHO about the two cases. The WHO has not yet confirmed the illness and death of either man, so for now the group still lists Indonesia's case count as 135 cases and 110 deaths. Indonesia leads the world with the most H5N1 cases and fatalities.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/080408indonesia.html>



We're on the Web!
[http://sdpandemicfacts.org/
resources.htm#newsletters](http://sdpandemicfacts.org/resources.htm#newsletters)

RESOURCES

- County Vector Control Program's (888) 551-INFO (4636) for info on how to protect birds, or to report dead birds.
- HHSA's Avian and Pandemic Flu Info Line (619) 515-6900 for info regarding avian and pandemic flu.
- Educational materials are available for public distribution and are also downloadable from the county website: www.sdbirdflu.org or www.sdpandemicflu.org. Click on "Pandemic Flu".
- National Geographic International Edition: www.nationalgeographic.com
- World Health Organization (WHO): www.who.int
- Federal Dept. of Health & Human Services: www.pandemicflu.gov
- Federal CDC site: www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic
- State of California: www.dhs.ca.gov
- County of San Diego: www.sdbirdflu.org
- The Poultry Site: www.thepoultrysite.com

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